

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

At the time of the Action, Claims 1-28 were pending. Claims 1-16 and 18 are allowed. Claims 17 and 19-28 are rejected under Section 112, second paragraph. Claim 24 stands rejected under Section 102(b). Claims 4, 6, 10, 13-16 and 26, the drawings and the specification are objected to for certain informalities. These issues are addressed below.

II. The Specification Objections

Applicant has submitted a substitute Abstract and has amended the specification to add headings as requested in the Action. As such, Applicant believes that the objections to the specification are now moot.

III. The Drawing Objections

Applicant submits concurrently herewith a replacement sheet containing Figure 1 that identifies Figure 1 as prior art. Accordingly, Applicant believes that this objection has been obviated.

IV. The Claim Objections

Applicant has amended Claims 4, 6, 10, 13-16 and 26 to address the objections to these claims, which amendments Applicant submits should overcome the objections.

IV. The Section 112, Second Paragraph Objections

Applicant has amended Claims 19, 20, 22 and 23 to provide antecedent basis for the terms noted in the Action. Applicant has also amended Claims 17, 24 and 25 to address the issues raised in the Action. In view of these amendments, Applicant requests that the rejections of these claims be withdrawn.

V. The Section 102(b) Rejection

The Action states that Claim 24 is anticipated by "the admitted prior art (APA)." More specifically, the Action states that APA discloses "a radial sealing assembly comprising: a pair of primary sealing lips, namely a lip 2 disposed on the inner

circumferential face and a lip 3 disposed on the outer circumferential face; and a containment ring 5 connecting the lips." Based on this finding, the Action rejects Claim 24 under Section 102(b).

In response, Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to Claim 24 as set forth above. Claim 24 now recites that the radial sealing unit includes a pair of primary sealing lips and a pair of secondary sealing lips, wherein the primary lips and the secondary lips are connected by a connecting ring. An exemplary configuration encompassed by Claim 24 is illustrated in Figure 8, which includes primary lips **35, 36** and secondary lips **44, 45** connected by a connecting ring **39**. APA clearly fails to disclose such a structure, as it has only two lips **2, 3**. Consequently, APA cannot anticipate Claim 24, and Applicant requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

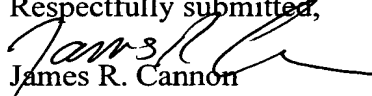
VI. New Claims 30-32

New Claims 30-32 are proffered above for entry and examination; these claims depend from Claim 9 and are intended to provide a more complete claim set.

VII. Conclusion

Inasmuch as all of the outstanding issues raised in the Action have been addressed, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance.


Respectfully submitted,


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